

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly Newscast

March 8th, 2014

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. stab	a) clothing made to protect someone from weapons
	2. warehouse	b) strange
	3. arrested	c) to cut into someone with a knife or sharp object
	4. manhunt	d) getting better after an injury
	5. fatally	e) when many police search for a person
	6. armour	f) a building used to hold/store products
	7. recovering	g) attack
	8. commented	h) to be caught by police and taken for questioning
	9. assault	i) causing death
	10. weird	j) to say something; to give information

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

grocery – food and other daily goods

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. _____ were stabbed to death and _____ wounded in an attack at a grocery warehouse.	a) Two men / four other people b) Four people / two men
2. A co-worker, Jayme Pasioka, was arrested _____ after a three hour manhunt.	a) the next day b) later that day
3. Police say Pasioka entered the warehouse carrying _____.	a) body armour and knives. b) two knives and wearing body armour.
4. The four other men stabbed are _____.	a) recovering. b) dying.
5. One _____ who spoke to CBC said Pasioka was, "very weird with no friends."	a) friend b) co-worker

Discussion Question

If someone is feeling depressed or angry, what is some advice you would give him or her?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) session	a) time block
	2) expenses	b) public official government worker
	3) period	c) competitors rivals
	4) funeral	d) costs/bills money paid
	5) opposition	e) refund give money back
	6) politician	f) meeting government work time
	7) repay	g) last rites death ceremony

Extra definition to help you understand the listening:

controversy – long discussion or disagreement about serious issues

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **True** or **False**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ The Alberta Legislature began its spring session discussing Alison Redford's questions.
2. ____ Redford spent \$45,000 to go to Nelson Mandela's funeral.
3. ____ The premier of Nova Scotia spent under \$1000 to go to Nelson Mandela's funeral.
4. ____ Redford will repay the money she spent for the trip to Mandela's funeral.
5. ____ Redford will repay the tax dollars spent to travel to her uncle's funeral.
6. ____ Redford took her daughter's friends on four trips using tax payers' dollars.

Discussion Questions

What should politicians be allowed to use tax payers' dollars for? What expenses should not be paid using government money/tax dollars?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Vocabulary word	Meaning
bizarre	unusual, strange
boom	loud bang
rattling	shaking enough to make a shaking noise
crews	teams of people who work together
frost	ice forming in the soil
quake	shaking of the earth
saturated	soaked, full of water

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

1. When the car hit the wall, there was a very loud _____.
2. The wind was blowing so hard the windows were _____.
3. My boots were _____ after I tried to clean up all the water in the garage.
4. Once the _____ has started in the fall I can't grow plants in my garden until spring.
5. If you see a car accident on the highway, you have to drive slowly past the emergency _____ for everyone's safety.
6. My sister likes to be different and she often wears _____ clothes and has pink hair.
7. When I lived in Ottawa, there was a minor _____ during the night, which shook the mirror on the wall.

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. How did the loud bang affect buildings in Calgary?
2. Which areas of Calgary reported the boom?
3. What possible causes did emergency crews find for the loud noise?
4. Which government agency now has a possible cause for the noise?
5. How common are these events?

Discussion Questions: Did you hear the frost quake? Have you ever heard your house make cracking noises in cold weather? What other strange events have you noticed that take place in very cold weather?

Language Focus

Modal Verbs

Modal verbs are also called modal auxiliary verbs, because they are auxiliary or helping verbs. These auxiliary verbs always modify, or add more information, to the main verb. Modal verbs do not change form when the subject or tense of the sentence changes. Use the base form of the verb that comes after the modals. (Note: some modals cannot be used in all tenses, for example, *can*, *must* and *should* can't be used in the simple past, another word or past tense is used.)

Thinking about the Present : I **should** *watch* a movie. (watch = base form)

Present Continuous: He **should** *be* watching a movie right now. (be = base form)

Talking about the Future: We **should** *watch* a movie tomorrow night. (watch = base form)

Talking about the Past: She **should** *have* watched a movie yesterday. (have = base form)

Modal	Meaning	Example
can	to show ability	I can <i>speak</i> three languages.
can	to request permission	Can I <i>sit</i> here?
could	past tense to show ability	As I child, I could <i>play</i> the piano.
could	polite request for permission	Could I <i>offer</i> you some tea?
may	it is possible	I may not <i>be</i> able to finish my homework.
may	to request permission	May I <i>help</i> you with something?
might	it is possible	My sister might <i>be</i> joining us today.
may/might have	to show possibility	I may <i>have</i> to go to the doctor tomorrow.
must	to have to	He must <i>practice</i> every day.
must	to express strong belief	To pass the exam, you must <i>study</i> .
should	to give advice	You should <i>wear</i> a coat in the winter.
would	to request or offer	Would you <i>be</i> able to help me tonight?

A modal verb is used in the first story: "Investigators have not commented on what **may** *have* been the reason for the attack." By using the modal verb 'may', it emphasizes that investigators aren't sure about the reasons for the attack.

Try to use some of the modal verbs above to make your own sentences. Use the examples above to help you.

Transcripts of Weekly News Stories

	MARCH 8 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for March 7 th .	0:00
Story 1	Two men were stabbed to death and four other people wounded in a bloody attack at a grocery warehouse in northwest Edmonton. A co-worker, Jayme Pasioka, was arrested later that day after a three hour manhunt. Police say Pasioka fatally stabbed Fitzroy Harris and Thierno Bah when he entered the warehouse carrying two knives and wearing body armour. Four other men were also stabbed and are recovering. Investigators have not commented on what may have been the reason for the attack. One co-worker who spoke to CBC said Pasioka was, "very weird with no friends."	0:10
Story 2	The Alberta Legislature has begun its spring session with controversy over Premier Alison Redford's travel expenses. The first question period led to many questions for Redford about the 45 thousand dollar cost to taxpayers for her to go to Nelson Mandela's funeral. The premier of Nova Scotia made the same trip for under one thousand dollars. Opposition politicians want her to repay the money. She says she won't, but she will return to taxpayers just over 3 thousand dollars for other travel, including the cost of flying to Vancouver for an uncle's funeral and for bringing her daughter's friends along on four other trips.	01:02
Story 3	It's a bizarre mystery that has Calgarians talking. Late yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon a loud boom shook the city- but no one knows what it was. People say they heard a big bang that rattled buildings throughout the north-west and even into some areas of the south-east. Emergency crews haven't been able to find anything that could have caused the boom. Now Environment Canada says it could have been caused by a very rare frost quake. A frost quake may be caused by a sudden cracking action in frozen soil or rock saturated with water or ice.	01:55

Appendix: Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
c	1. stab	a) clothing made to protect someone from weapons
f	2. warehouse	b) strange
h	3. arrested	c) to cut into someone with a knife or sharp object
e	4. manhunt	d) getting better after an injury
i	5. fatally	e) when many police search for a person
a	6. armour	f) a building used to hold/store products
d	7. recovering	g) attack
j	8. commented	h) to be caught by police and taken for questioning
g	9. assault	i) causing death
b	10. weird	j) to say something; to give information

Listening

1. _____ were stabbed to death and _____ wounded in an attack at a grocery warehouse.	a) Two men / four other people b) Four people / two men
2. A co-worker, Jayme Pasioka, was arrested _____ after a three hour manhunt.	a) the next day b) later that day
3. Police say Pasioka entered the warehouse carrying _____.	a) body armour and knives. b) two knives and wearing body armour.
4. The four other men stabbed are _____.	a) recovering. b) dying.
5. One _____ who spoke to CBC said Pasioka was, "very weird with no friends."	a) friend b) co-worker

News story 2

Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
f	1) session	a) time block
d	2) expenses	b) public official government worker
a	3) period	c) competitors rivals
g	4) funeral	d) costs/bills money paid
c	5) opposition	e) refund give money back

b	6) politician	f) meeting government work time
e	7) repay	g) last rites death ceremony

Listening

1. F The Alberta Legislature began its spring session discussing Alison Redford's questions.
2. T Redford spent \$45,000 to go to Nelson Mandela's funeral.
3. T The premier of Nova Scotia spent under \$1000 to go to Nelson Mandela's funeral.
4. F Redford will repay the money she spent for the trip to Mandela's funeral.
5. T Redford will repay the tax dollars spent to travel to her uncle's funeral.
6. T Redford took her daughter's friends on four trips using tax payers dollars.

News story 3

Vocabulary

1. When the car hit the wall, there was a very loud boom.
2. The wind was blowing so hard the windows were rattling.
3. My boots were saturated after I tried to clean up all the water in the garage.
4. Once the frost has started in the fall I can't grow plants in my garden until spring.
5. If you see a car accident on the highway, you have to drive slowly past the emergency crews for everyone's safety.
6. My sister likes to be different and she often wears bizarre clothes and has pink hair.
7. When I lived in Ottawa, there was a minor quake during the night, which shook the mirror on the wall.

Listening

1. How did the loud bang affect buildings in Calgary? It rattled some buildings.
2. Which areas of Calgary reported the boom? North West and South East
3. What possible causes did emergency crews find for the loud noise? They could not find any cause for the noise.
4. Which government agency now has a possible cause for the noise? Environment Canada
5. How common are these events? Very rare